

HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW

ABOUT THE PROCESS?

?

MAYBE NOT AS MUCH AS YOU THOUGHT!

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH
ANY QUESTIONS:



LifeChoice Donor Services
8 Griffin Road North
Windsor, CT 06095
1.800.874.5215
www.lifechoiceopo.org

A DONATE LIFE ORGANIZATION

*Serving Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex,
Tolland, Windham, New London Counties*



New England Organ Bank
One Gateway Center
Newton, MA 04258
1.800.446.NEOB
www.neob.org

A DONATE LIFE ORGANIZATION

*Serving New Haven and
Fairfield Counties*



TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT
**ORGAN AND TISSUE
DONATION**



www.donatelife.org

LET'S GET INFORMED

ABOUT ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION

There are over 25,000 organ transplants performed in the United States every year. Over 750,000 tissue transplants are performed each year as well. Unbelievably, one organ and tissue donor can save or improve the lives of as many as 50 individuals!

10 QUESTIONS

YOU SHOULD HAVE THE ANSWERS TO REGARDING ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION....

Q. How do I become a donor?

A. When receiving or renewing a Connecticut state driver's license, you will be asked if you wish to become an organ and/or tissue donor. The information you provide goes into a donor registry database accessible by the organ procurement organization (OPO) in the event you become a potential donor. If you answer "YES" to the question, this is considered legal consent for donation. Anyone age 18 and over can also sign a uniform donor card. If you are under the age of 18, at least one parent or legal guardian must be a co-signer. A card may be obtained by contacting LifeChoice Donor Services or New England Organ Bank. If you are a Connecticut resident, a donor card is also located on the back of your Connecticut driver's license. A signed donor card is also legal consent for donation! You should also make your wishes known to your family.

Q. What are OPOs?

A. OPOs are organizations that coordinate activities related to organ and tissue donation for transplant in a designated service area. OPOs are responsible for evaluating potential donors, discussing donation with family members, and arranging for the procurement procedure. Facilitating the placement of organs for transplant, providing preservation services, and arranging organ transportation are also responsibilities of the OPO.

Q. What can be donated?

A. Organs that may be donated following death include: heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine. Corneas, skin, bone, heart valves, connective tissue and blood vessels are all examples of tissues that can be donated after cardiac death. Total body donation for medical research and education is also an option.

Q. What is brain death?

A. Brain death is the complete and irreversible cessation of all brain function. It can occur following a catastrophic brain injury such as a cerebral hemorrhage or trauma to the head. In such cases, the heart and lungs can continue to function temporarily with artificial respiratory support, allowing the organs to remain viable for donation. Standards for the determination of brain death are very strict, and death based on the absence of brain function is legally recognized in every state and is an accepted medical and ethical principle.

Q. What do I do if I make a decision about donation and then change my mind?

A. You may contact your local DMV office and they will update your information in the donor registry and instruct you on modifying your license. You should also obtain or destroy your donor card and be sure to make your wishes known to your family.

Q. Is there any cost to the donor or their family for organ and tissue donation?

A. No. Neither the donor nor their family pays for or receives payment for organ or tissue donation. All costs directly associated with donation are paid by the OPO.

Q. Will efforts to save my life be lessened if the hospital staff knows I have a signed donor card?

A. Absolutely not. The goal of Emergency Room and hospital staff is to save your life. The organ and tissue donation team does not become involved until after it has been determined that all efforts to save a patient's life have failed.

Q. Does organ and tissue donation leave the body disfigured?

A. The removal of organs and tissues is performed by qualified doctors and recovery staff. In the hands of a skilled funeral professional, an open-casket viewing will still be able to take place.

Q. What does "Routine Notification" mean?

A. All hospitals are required by federal law to contact their affiliated OPO in a timely manner about individuals who die or whose death is imminent. If the individual is medically suitable, the donor registry database will be accessed to determine if he or she is a registered donor, and/or the legal next-of-kin will be contacted and offered the option of donation.

Q. How are recipients matched to donor organs?

A. Persons waiting for transplants are listed at their local transplant center, and also on a national computerized waiting list. When organs become available, several factors are taken into consideration. These factors include blood and tissue type of the donor and recipient, and other recipient information such as weight, medical condition, time spent on the waiting list, and urgency of need. Geographic location is also a factor, as timing is critical and transportation times must be kept to a minimum. UNOS, the United Network of Organ Sharing, maintains the national computerized waiting list and is dedicated to providing fair and equitable placement of donated organs.

There are currently over 90,000 people in the United States on the national waiting list for organs, yet less than a third receives transplants each year. Each day, adults and children die waiting for life-saving organ transplants! You can make a difference!

GET INFORMED

**MAKE A CHOICE ABOUT
ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**LifeChoice Donor Services
1.800.874.5215**

**New England Organ Bank
1.800.446.NEOB**

(more contact information on back panel)